



To:  
Members of The Internet Society Sierra Leone (ISOC-SL).

20 August 2020

Dear Members,

### ISOC-SL August 2020 Newsletter

We hope that you are all safe and in good health. ISOC-SL continues to remind members that the COVID-19 Virus is still in our midst and that we should continue to heed Public Health Advice. ISOC-SL has continued with the implementation of its Beyond The NET COVID-19 Programme. The programme is aimed at reaching out to citizens who are not connected to the Internet, showing them the benefits of the Internet and giving them access to the Internet during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The programme was targeted at students who have never used a Laptop or accessed the Internet.

We started the programme at a school in Hastings, a town in the outskirts of Freetown, where we loaned Laptops, Mi-fi Modems and other peripherals to 20 senior secondary school students. We can report here that the program was a huge success. All the students were able to complete the tasks assigned to them.

These tasks included:

- Operating a Laptop, Mi-Fi Modem and other computer peripherals;
- Connect to the Internet and using at least two different browsers to visit several websites;
- Create a personal email address;
- Research, download and save exam topic resources (pdf, videos) to a personal USB Drive;
- Sign up and join The Internet Society-Sierra Leone through the ISOC website.

The second school to benefit from this programme was the St Augustine's Secondary School in Lungi Town. Similarly, we targeted students preparing for their WASSC Exams who do not have access to the Internet. The programme ended at this school on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020, in time for the start of the WASSC Exams. The feedback from the students, parents and teachers has been highly positive.

As part of our programmes for 2020, we are planning on conducting the first Sierra Leone Internet Access Survey. The aim of this survey is to garner information on Internet access, usage, pricing, quality of service, etc. Our aim is to reach at least 10,000 Sierra Leone Internet users. A small sample of non-users of the Internet will also be questioned on their challenges in acquiring access to the Internet.



A key objective of this survey is to gain a better understanding of where we are as nation in terms of our use of the Internet and how it could be optimised for greater economic and social growth. As we are in the planning stage for this survey, we are asking members to submit ideas on methodology, questions and other pertinent issues that will aid the success of the first Sierra Leone Internet Access survey. As always, we welcome feedback from members on the above, or any issue of relevance to the Internet Society Sierra Leone Chapter.

On behalf of the ISOC Sierra Leone Chapter Executive, I want to wish you all continued good health.

Stay Safe.

Best regards,

Salieu Kanu Mansaray  
President  
ISOC- Sierra Leone Chapter

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To Become a member of The Internet Society - Sierra Leone, please click the link below:

<https://portal.internetsociety.org/622619/form/join>

or visit the following websites:

[www.isoc.org](http://www.isoc.org)

[www.isoc-sl.org](http://www.isoc-sl.org)